



KIRKMAN • ADLARD • RATHBURN

THE WALKING DEAD™

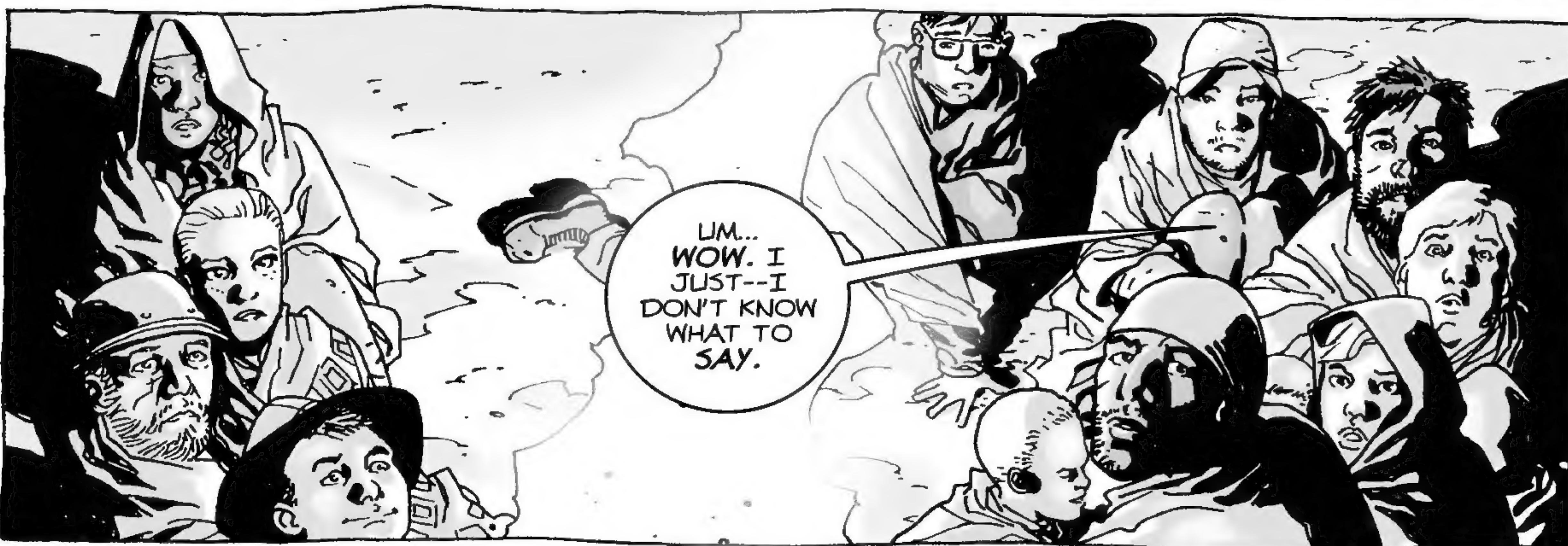
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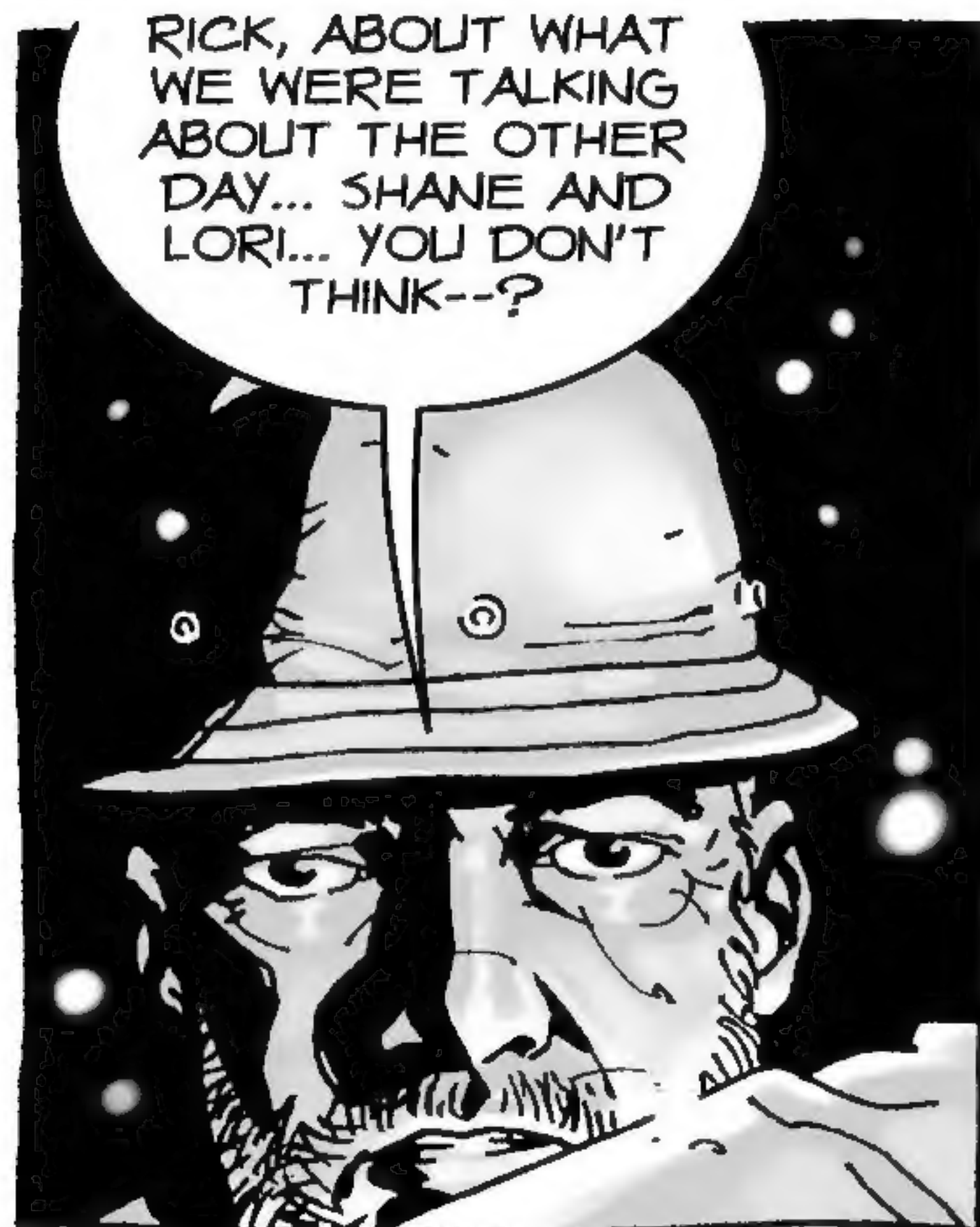






SHIT, IT'S STARTING TO SNOW. DID WE BOIL ENOUGH WATER TO FILL ALL THE BOTTLES WE HAVE?

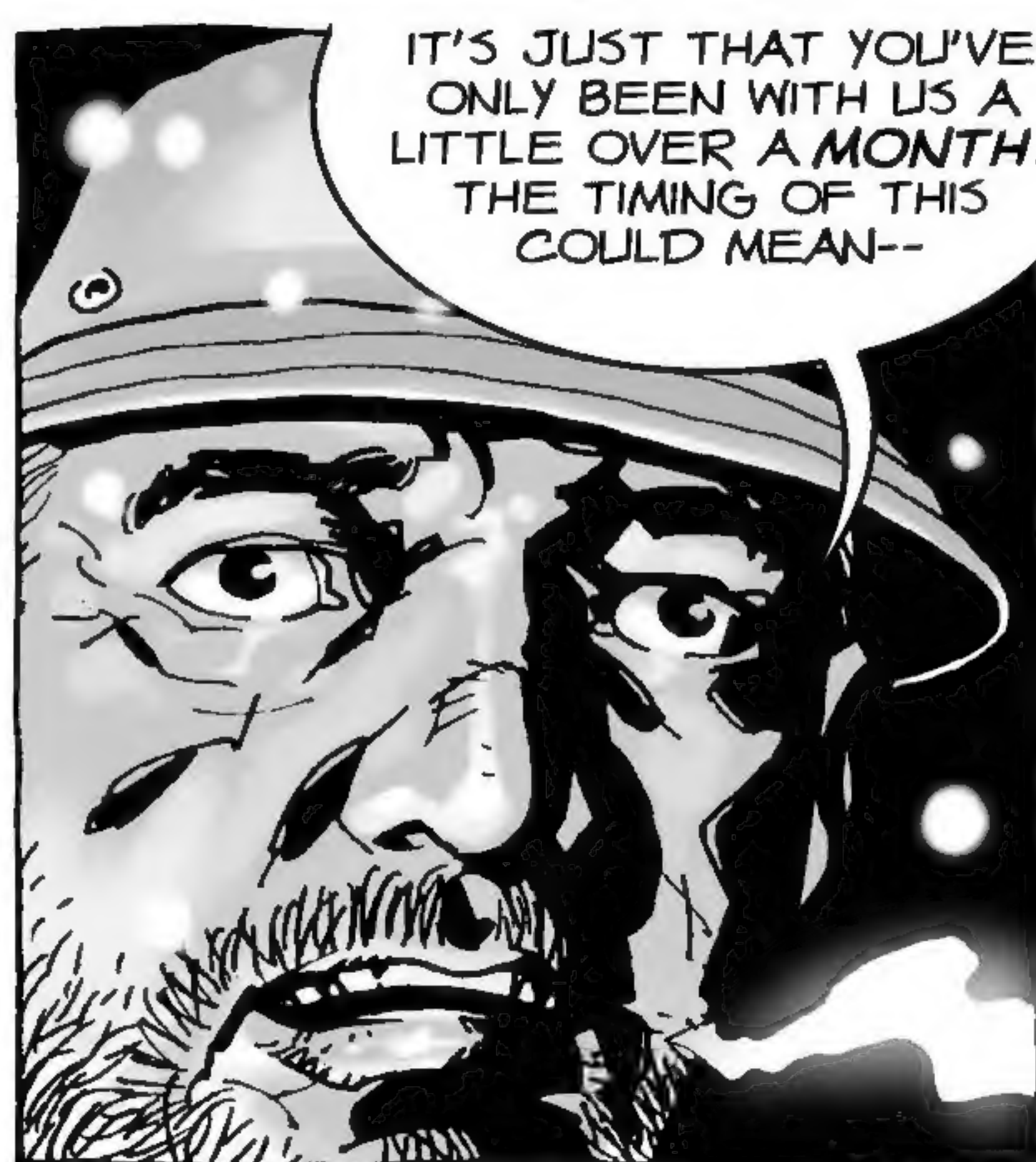
JUST ABOUT, IT'S A GOOD THING WE FOUND THE CREEK WHEN WE DID.



RICK, ABOUT WHAT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT THE OTHER DAY... SHANE AND LORI... YOU DON'T THINK--?



LOOK, DALE... JUST DROP IT. OKAY?



IT'S JUST THAT YOU'VE ONLY BEEN WITH US A LITTLE OVER A MONTH. THE TIMING OF THIS COULD MEAN--



NOT ANOTHER WORD, DALE. NOT ANOTHER GODDAMN WORD!

I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU'RE SAYING. YOU THINK I'M NOT THINKING ABOUT THAT? IT'S ALL I'M THINKING ABOUT. WE'VE ONLY HAD SEX ONCE SINCE I GOT BACK... I'M OUT OF MY MIND OVER THIS. BUT I TRUST MY WIFE, AND THAT'S ALL I CAN DO.

I'M TRYING NOT TO THINK ABOUT IT. IF I DWELL ON THIS I'LL LOSE MY MIND.

I'M WORRIED SICK AND ALLEN ISN'T HELPING A BIT. THIS COULD KILL LORI... AND I--THE OTHER THING COULD KILL ME.

I JUST CAN'T DEAL WITH THIS RIGHT NOW.



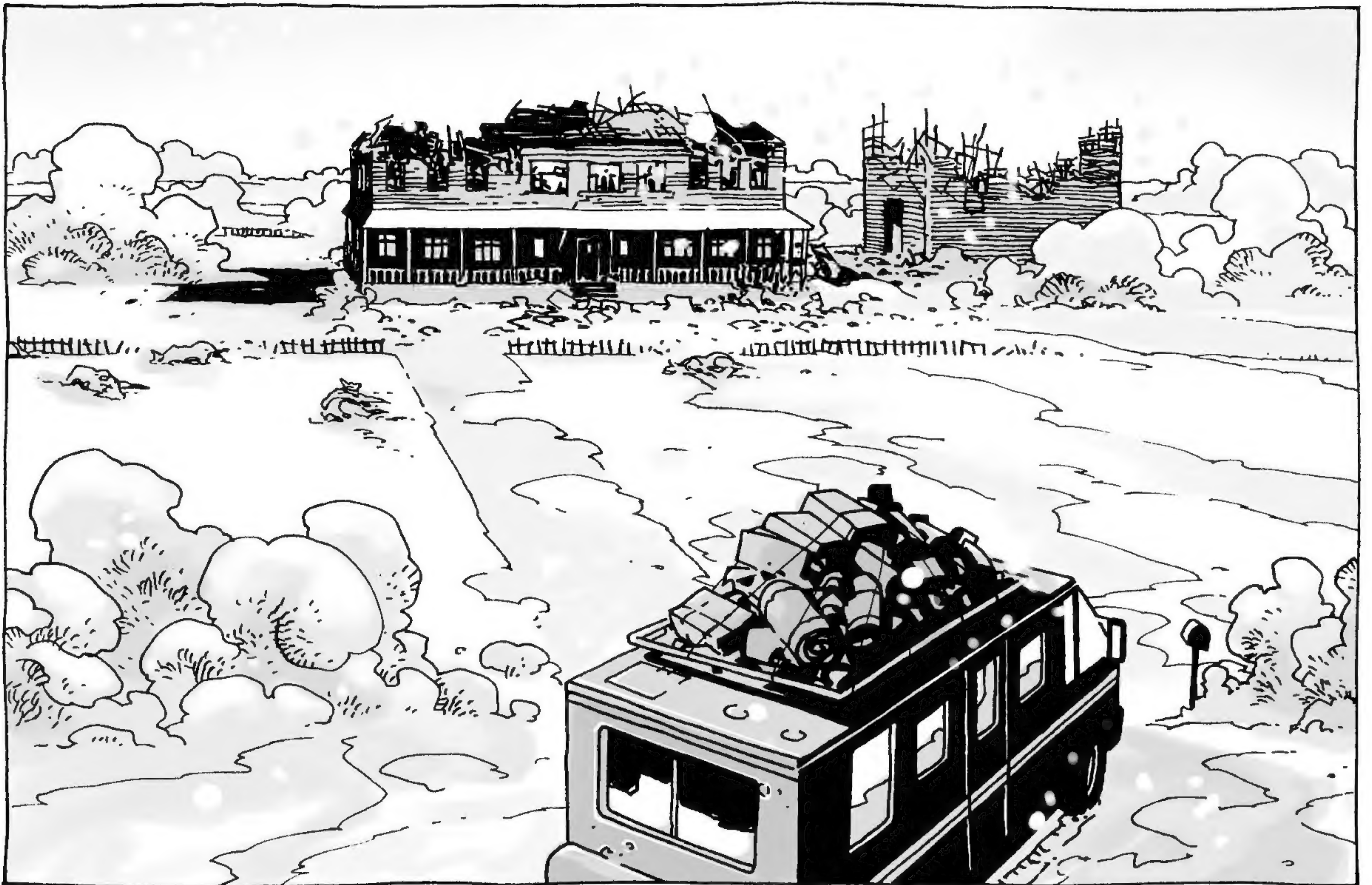
RICK. I-- I'M SORRY I BROUGHT IT UP.

DON'T WORRY, SON, EVERYTHING WILL WORK OUT. YOU DIDN'T SURVIVE THIS LONG JUST TO LOSE IT NOW.

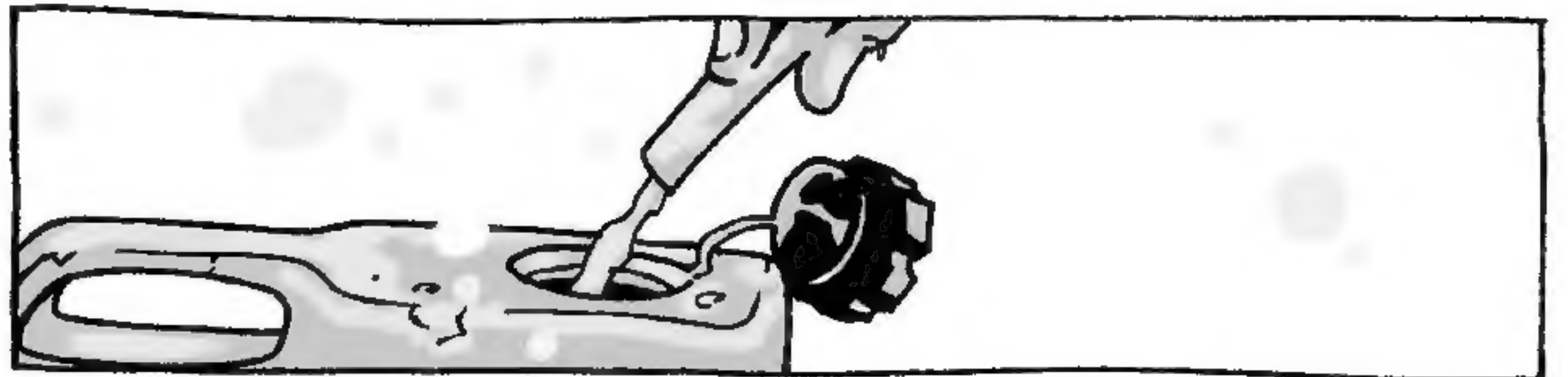
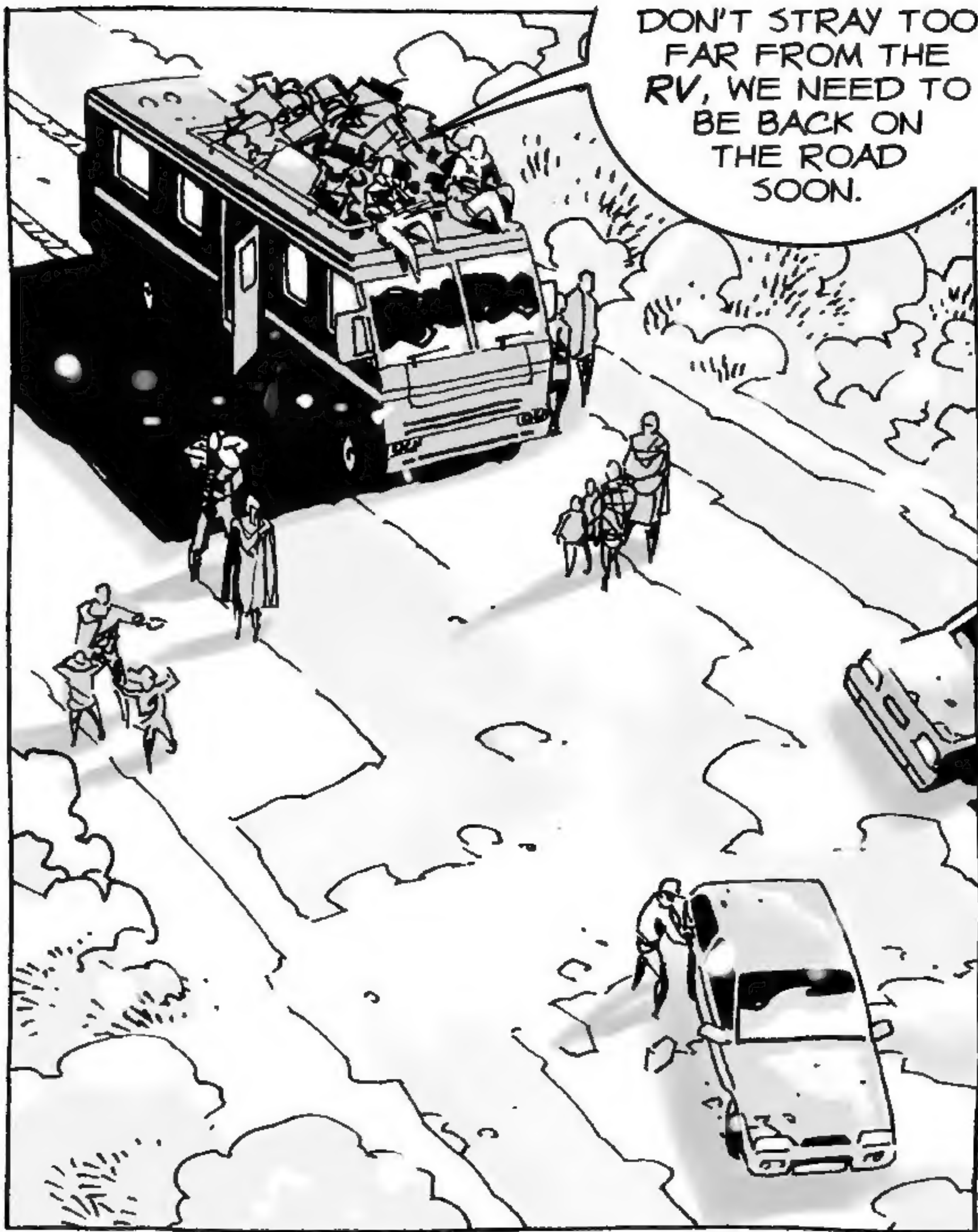
ESPECIALLY IF YOU GOT A NEW BABY ON THE WAY.



C'MON... LET'S GET SOME SLEEP.



DON'T STRAY TOO FAR FROM THE RV, WE NEED TO BE BACK ON THE ROAD SOON.



I--I WAS JUST WALKING ALONG. I DIDN'T EVEN SEE IT. SORRY TO STARTLE EVERYONE.

OH MY GOD, DALE! ARE YOU OKAY? DID IT HURT YOU? ARE YOU OKAY?!

WHAT'S GOING--?

OH HELL.

IS IT DEAD?

I'M FINE, ANDREA. I JUST FELL. I'M GOING TO BE JUST FINE.

I THINK IT'S FROZEN.

UGG.

YEAH!!

WHOA. THAT PRETTY MUCH WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?

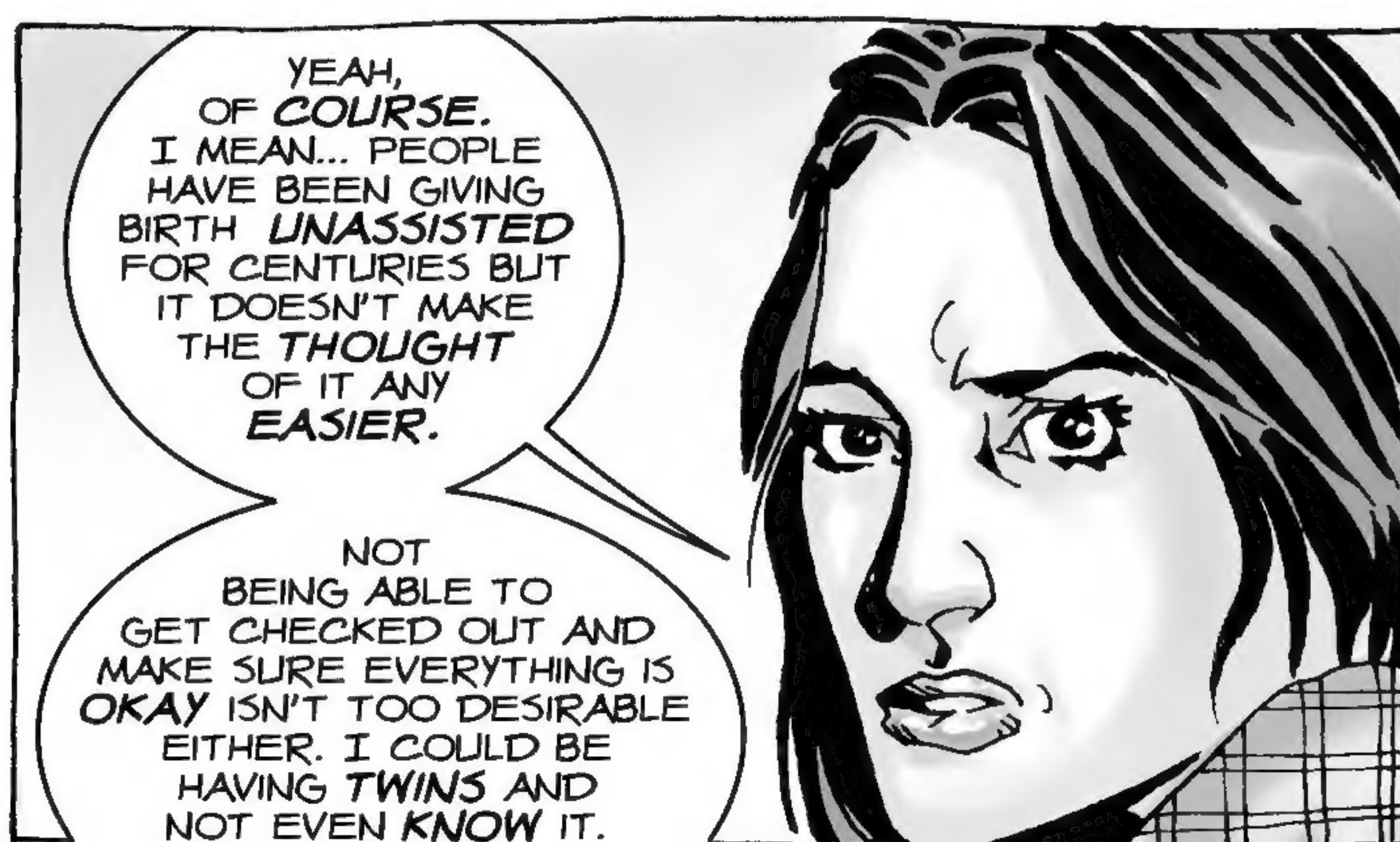
YEAH, BUT IT'S FUNNIER TO WATCH, AND NOT AS PAINFUL.

KRROOK!

I GUESS THEY DON'T HAVE BLOOD PUMPING THROUGH THEM... SO THEY MUST FREEZE FASTER THAN US.

THAT'S GOOD TO KNOW.

WE SHOULD BE **SAFE** AS LONG AS THIS WEATHER KEEPS UP.





I
THINK WE'VE
HIT THE
JACKPOT.



WE'RE AT LEAST
TWENTY MILES FROM
THE CITY... WE SHOULD
BE RELATIVELY SAFE
HERE.

MY GOD. IF THE
SNOW HADN'T
HAD US GOING
TEN MILES AN
HOUR WE MIGHT
HAVE MISSED
THIS PLACE.



THIS PLACE IS
PERFECT. WE
COULD START
A NEW LIFE
HERE.

IT **DOES**
LOOK
PROMISING.

OKAY, LET'S ALL HAVE
A LOOK AROUND BUT
DON'T SPREAD TOO
FAR APART. LET'S
JUST CHECK OUT
THESE FIRST FEW
HOUSES FOR TODAY.
WE DON'T KNOW JUST
HOW **ABANDONED**
THIS PLACE REALLY
IS AND IT'S GOING
TO BE **DARK**
SOON, SO STAY
SHARP.



BOYS, YOU
STAY WITH
CAROL,
OKAY?

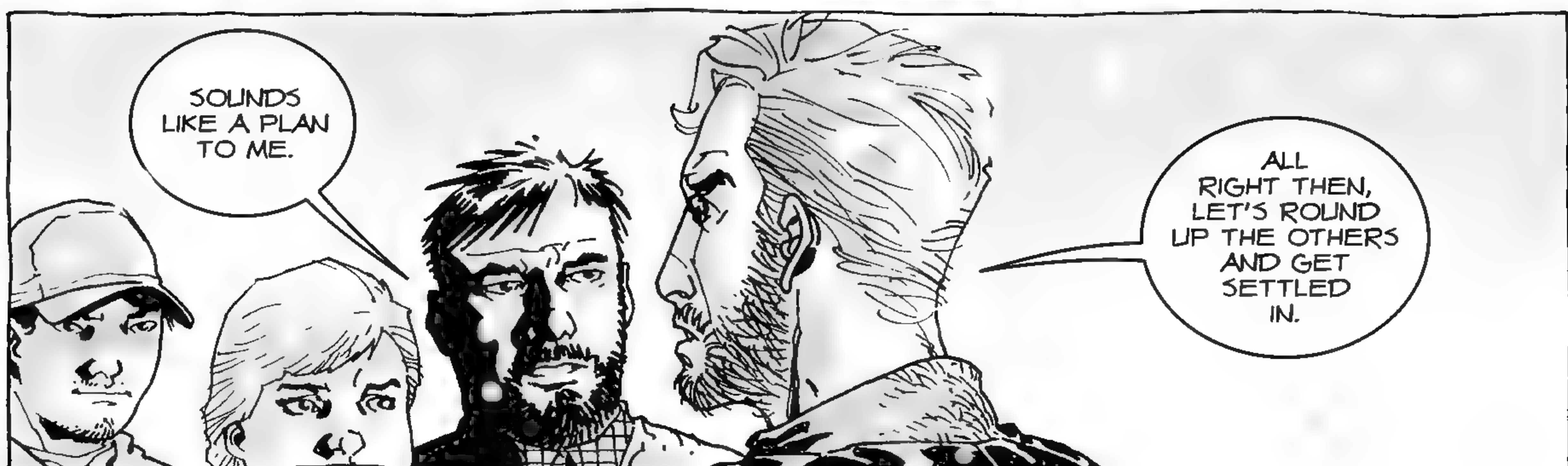
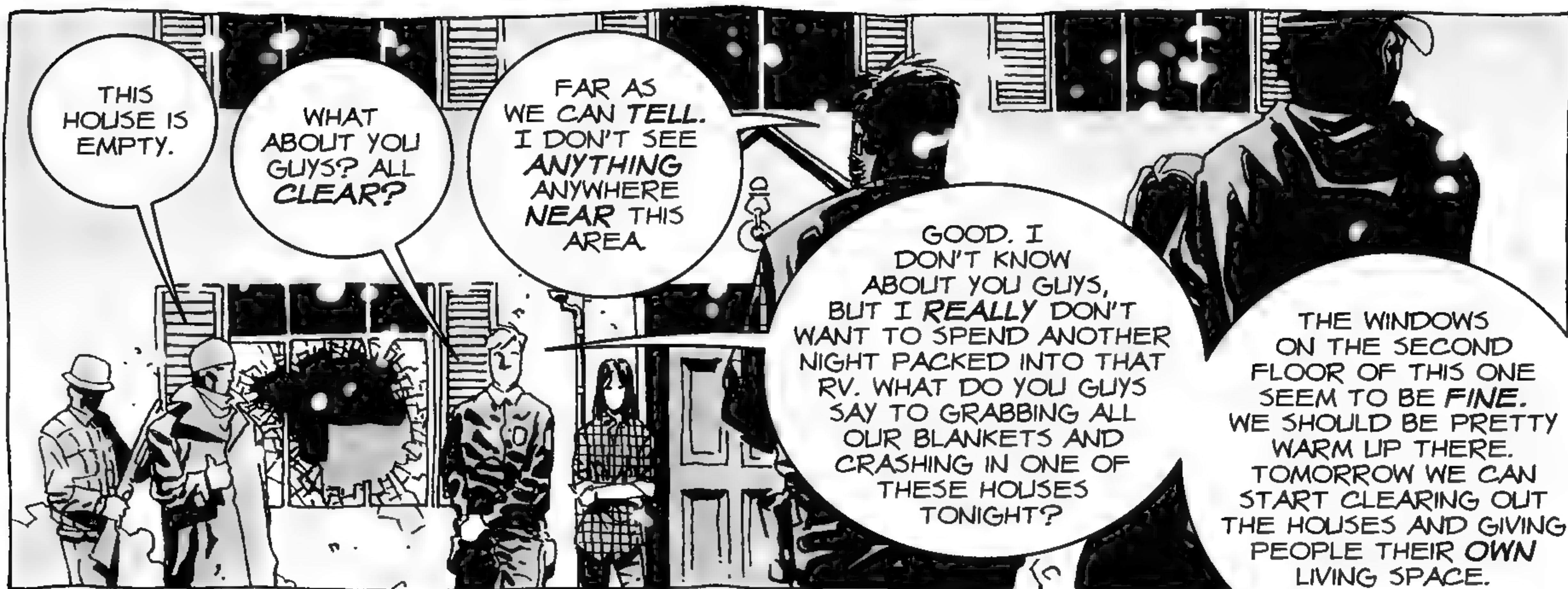


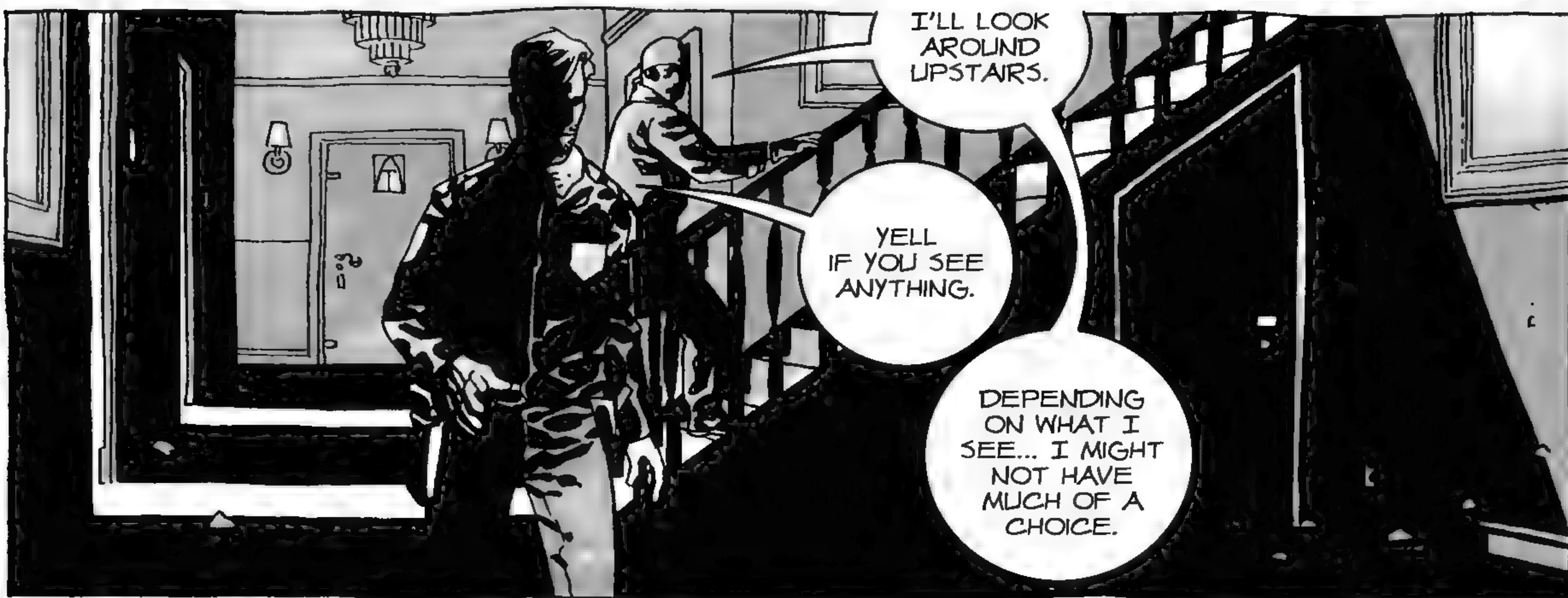
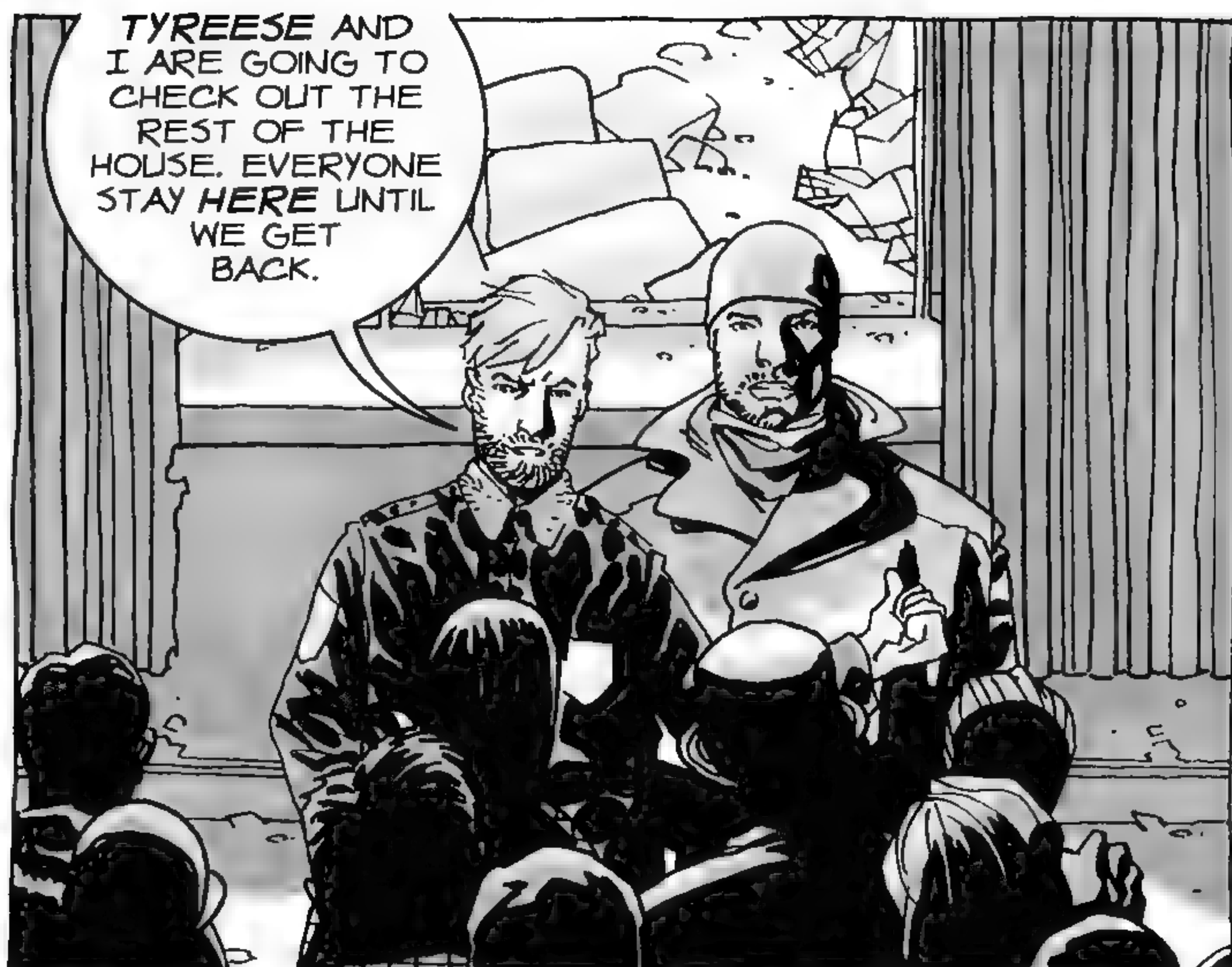
I'M GOING
TO TAKE THE
KIDS BACK INTO
THE RV UNTIL
YOU GUYS GIVE
THE ALL
CLEAR.



SOUNDS
GOOD.

PROBABLY
NOT A BAD
IDEA TO
KEEP YOUR
GUNS OUT,
EVERYONE.







HUNGH!

YEEAGH!

SHIT!







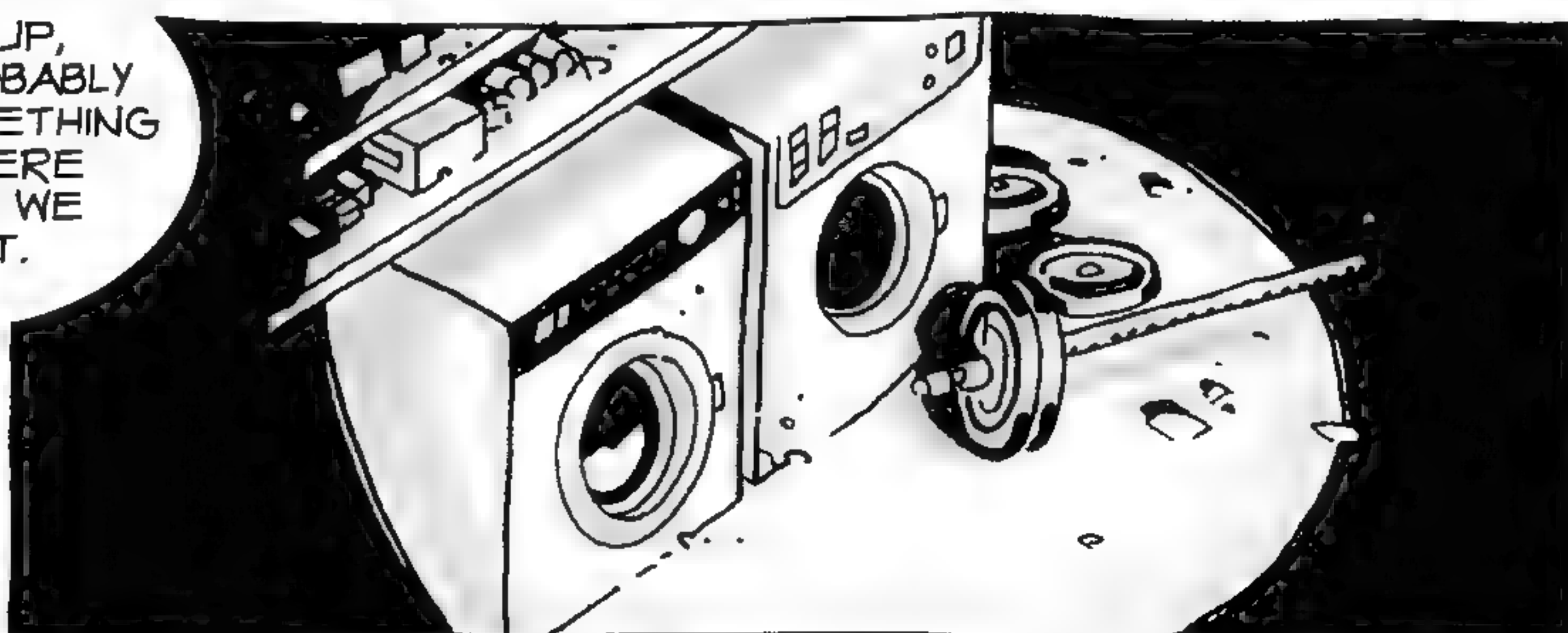
WE
GOOD?

FOR
NOW.

WE GOTTA
CLEAR OUT THAT
BASEMENT.
GLENN,
GET YOUR
FLASHLIGHT.



LISTEN UP,
WE'LL PROBABLY
HEAR SOMETHING
DOWN HERE
BEFORE WE
SEE IT.



KAHHH.

TYREESE,
WE GOT
ONE.

I'M
ON IT.



WHAM!

REST
LOOKS ALL
CLEAR.



UPSTAIRS
LOOK
OKAY?

YEAH,
I WAS DOING
A FINAL PASS
WHEN I HEARD
YOU SCREAM.
LOOKS LIKE
EVERYTHING BUT
THE BASEMENT
WAS CLEAN.

THAT WAS A HELL OF A **SAVE** IN THERE BY THE STARS. WHERE'D YOU LEARN TO **TACKLE** LIKE THAT?

NFL.

NO SHIT? YOU WERE A PRO FOOTBALL PLAYER?

YEAH, FOR TWO YEARS. THEN I WAS A **BOUNCER** FOR A WHILE, THEN **ODD JOBS**, AND **EVENTUALLY** I SETTLED INTO BEING A **CAR SALESMAN**. WHICH IS WHAT I DID FOR ABOUT **FIVE** YEARS UNTIL ALL **THIS SHIT** WENT DOWN.

YOU KNOW HOW PEOPLE SIT AROUND AND SAY: "EVEN THE **LOWEST** PAID PRO ATHLETES STILL MAKE A COUPLE HUNDRED **GRAND** A YEAR"? I WAS ONE OF **THOSE** GUYS.

THE PAY WAS **GOOD**, BUT I WANTED THE **GLORY**. I ENDED UP TRYING A LITTLE TOO HARD TO IMPRESS MY COACH AND I ENDED UP GETTING **HURT**.

STILL, THAT'S PRETTY **IMPRESSION**. SURE BEATS "SMALL TOWN COP."

I DON'T KNOW... I NEVER GOT TO CARRY A **GUN**.

WELL, I NEVER REALLY **USED** MINE, NOT BEFORE THE DEAD STOPPED **DYING**, ANYWAY.

REALLY? I HAD YOU PEGGED AS THE **HERO** COP, THE WAY YOU'VE BEEN HANDLING YOURSELF THE PAST FEW DAYS.

LORD, NO. I WAS A REGULAR **BARNEY FIFE**.

WELL, YOU'VE **CERTAINLY** STEPPED UP TO THE CHALLENGE.

WE SHOULD PROBABLY **BURN** THESE GUYS TOMORROW.

WE'LL PROBABLY FIND **MORE** WHEN WE SEARCH THE HOUSES TOMORROW. SO WE'LL BURN THEM WHEN WE'VE GOT A **GOOD PILE**. WE'RE ALMOST **USED** TO THE SMELL NOW-- WHICH MAKES ME SICK--SO WE CAN WAIT A DAY TO BURN THEM TO SAVE MATCHES.

THIS PLACE IS **LOADED** WITH CANNED GOODS.

THEY GOT **PEARS?**

PEARS, APPLES, PINEAPPLES, PEACHES, CHERRIES... IF THEY CANNED **GRAPES** I'M SURE THEY'D HAVE **THEM** TOO.

WITH STOCK LIKE **THIS** YOU'D THINK THEY **KNEW** WHAT WAS COMING.

THAT'S **GOOD** TO HEAR. WHEN I SAW THE BROKEN WINDOW I WAS WORRIED. BUT THE LOOTING MUST HAVE HAPPENED EARLY ON, BACK WHEN PEOPLE WERE STEALING TVS, VCRS AND COMPUTERS. EVERYONE MUST HAVE FLED TO **ATLANTA** BY THE TIME PEOPLE REALIZED **CANNED GOODS** WERE MORE VALUABLE.

LUCKY FOR US.

OKAY, IT'S GETTING **LATE** AND I'M **ITCHING** TO START SEARCHING THIS PLACE TOMORROW. I SAY WE HIT THE SACK. IT'D BE SAFER IF WE ALL SLEPT **UPSTAIRS**. AS LIGHT AS WE SLEEP NOW, WE'D **ALL** HEAR SOMETHING COMING UP THE STEPS AND I'M SURE IT'D ALSO SLOW THEM DOWN A GREAT DEAL.

THING IS, WE GOT **FOUR** ROOMS AND A **BATHROOM** UPSTAIRS. I KNOW SOME OF YOU WERE **REALLY** LOOKING TO HAVING SOME PLACES OFF WITH YOUR FAMILIES BUT FOR **TONIGHT** AT LEAST IT LOOKS LIKE WE'LL BE STILL BLINKING UP SOME. ANY **VOLUNTEERS?**

I'LL TAKE THE **BATHROOM**. I'VE SLEPT IN MY SHARE OF **TUBS** FROM MY COLLEGE YEARS. I'VE GOT NO **PROBLEM** WITH IT.

SOPHIA AND I COULD SHARE A ROOM WITH TYREESE, JULIE AND CHRIS.

HEH.

THAT TAKES CARE OF **THAT**. LET'S GET THE BLANKETS UPSTAIRS AND GET SOME **REST**.

THAP!



HE'S *OUT*. POOR THING... HE NEVER REALLY COULD SLEEP IN THE RV.



YEAH, THE RV WAS *WARMER* WITH ALL OF US *CRAMMED* IN THERE, BUT I DON'T THINK THERE WAS A *COMFORTABLE* PLACE TO SLEEP IN THE WHOLE *DAMN* THING. AND THE NOISE... JEEZ, THERE WAS ALWAYS SOMEONE ROLLING OVER, *COUGHING*, OR JUST WAKING UP FROM A *NIGHTMARE*.



AND THE *SMELL*... DON'T FORGET THE *SMELL*.

THAT THING *DID* GET PRETTY *RIPE* NEAR THE END. *JESUS*, I CAN'T *BELIEVE* WE'RE ACTUALLY GOING TO SLEEP IN A *BED*. I'D *FORGOTTEN* WHAT IT WAS *LIKE*.

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO *DO*, RICK?



WELL, I FIGURE I'VE GOT ABOUT *EIGHT* MONTHS TO FIND YOU A DOCTOR. ONCE WE GET SETTLED IN HERE I GUESS I'LL GO OUT ON THE *ROAD*.

YOU ALWAYS *WANTED* TO HAVE ANOTHER KID BEFORE CARL GOT TOO *OLD*. I GUESS WHEN IT'S *TIME* IT'S *TIME*, Y'KNOW. STILL, THIS IS ONE MORE COMPLICATION WE *DON'T* NEED.

WE'LL GET THROUGH THIS, HON', DON'T WORRY.



I *KNOW*, RICK. I'M WORRIED TOO, BUT NOW THAT WE'VE GOT THIS NEW PLACE... I *AM* FEELING A *LITTLE* BETTER ABOUT THE WHOLE THING.

IT'S JUST--



I WAS POKING AROUND IN OUR *CLOSET* AND I FOUND SOME *BLANKETS*, YOU GUYS WANT AN EXTRA ONE?

SURE, DONNA. THANKS.



GOOD NIGHT, GUYS.



OH, TYREESE... HEY. I FOUND SOME **BLANKETS** IN OUR CLOSET. THERE'S ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE TO HAVE **ONE** EXTRA.



TAKE **THREE**. GIVE ONE TO CAROL AND SOPHIA. AND CAN YOU SWING THE THIRD BY THE BATHROOM AND GIVE IT TO **GLENN**?

SURE. NO PROBLEM, DONNA. AND THANKS.



WELL THAT'S NICE OF YOU TO SAY. WE'RE REALLY **LUCKY** TO HAVE FOUND SUCH NICE PEOPLE. ESPECIALLY WHEN WE DID... WE WERE OUT OF **FOOD**, WITH NO **SHELTER**... WE PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE MADE IT IF WE HADN'T RAN INTO YOU THAT NIGHT.

HEY, TYREESE. I DON'T THINK I'VE GOTTEN A CHANCE TO WELCOME YOU TO OUR GROUP. I'M REALLY **GLAD** YOU'VE DECIDED TO STICK AROUND. YOU'VE REALLY BEEN A **BIG** HELP, AND JULIE IS THE **SWEETEST** LITTLE GIRL.



I **REALLY** APPRECIATE ALL YOU PEOPLE HAVE GIVEN US. YOU CAN **ALWAYS** COUNT ON ME TO DO MY PART AROUND HERE.

GOODNIGHT, DONNA.



GOODNIGHT, TYREESE. SLEEP WELL.



DALE?

ANDREA?

GUYS, I FOUND--





ANDREA'S
FINE.

HUH?
WHAT?



I WENT IN THERE TO
GIVE THEM A BLANKET AND
I SAW THEM... ALMOST ALL
OF THEM... **TOGETHER.**
SO WE'RE GETTING
THEIR EXTRA
BLANKET.

I
DIDN'T
WANT TO
INTERRUPT.



REALLY?
WOW.
LUCKY FOR
US THEN,
HUH?

I
FIGURED
THEY DIDN'T
NEED IT... THEY'RE
KEEPING EACH
OTHER **PLENTY**
WARM.



Y'KNOW... I **STILL** DON'T
APPROVE OF THOSE TWO,
BUT ANDREA'S A GROWN
WOMAN AND SHE CAN MAKE
HER OWN DECISIONS. IT'S
JUST NICE TO SEE
PEOPLE **HAPPY** WITH
ALL THAT'S GOING
ON.

I'M
HAPPY
FOR
THEM.



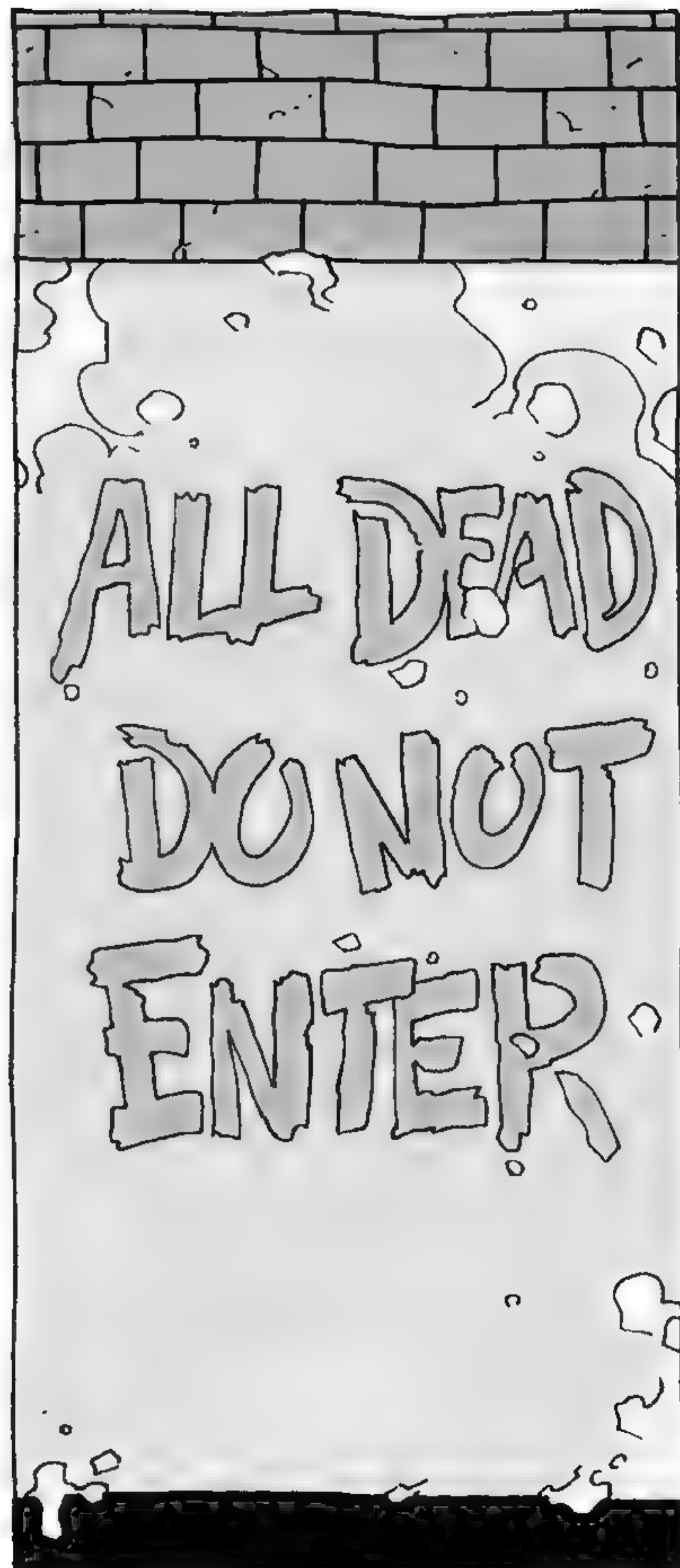
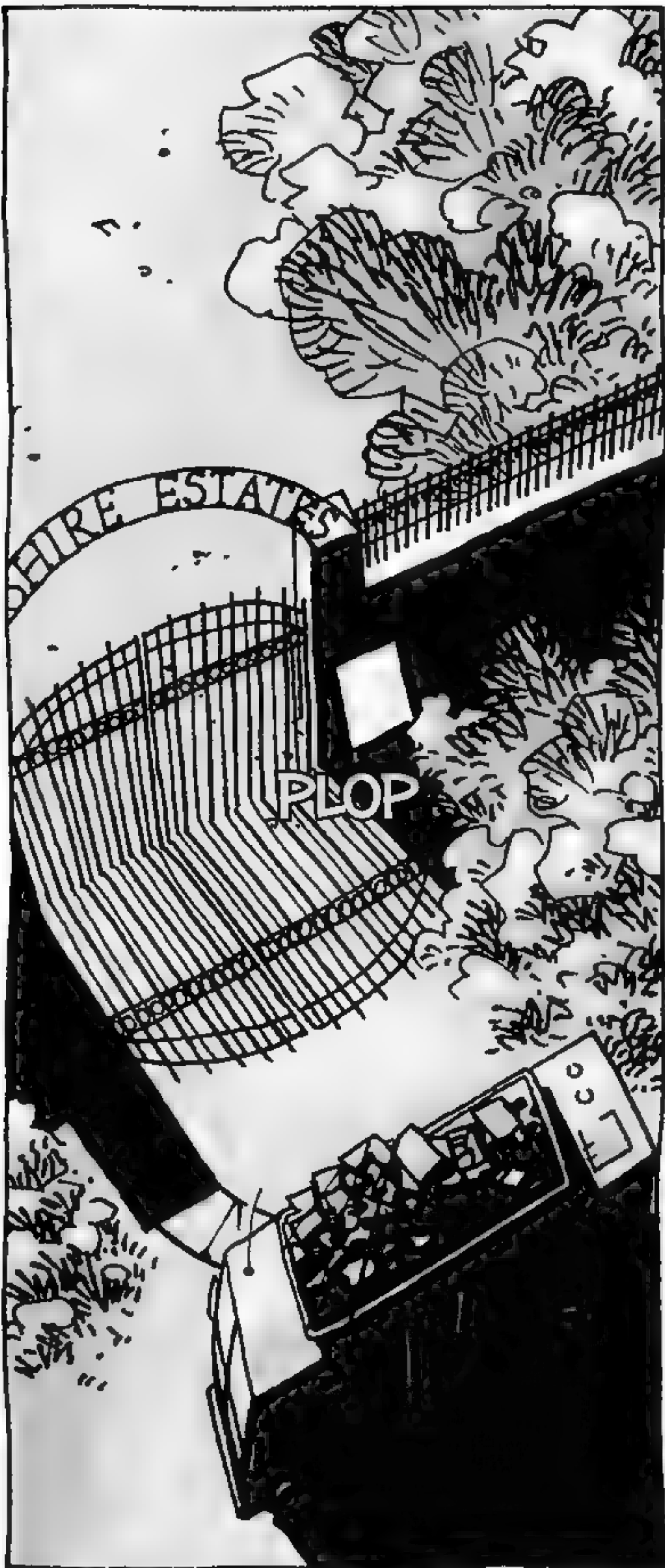
THE ICE
QUEEN
MELTETH.

OH,
HUSH.



SPEAKING
OF WHICH, I
THINK IT'S
WARMING UP A
LITTLE OUTSIDE.
THE SNOW IS
MELTING OFF
THE WINDOW.





LETTER HACKS

WRITE TO US AT:

THE WALKING DEAD
C/O FUNK-O-TRON
P.O. BOX 54386
LEXINGTON, KY 40555-4386

OR

WALKINGDEAD@FUNKOTRON.COM

Welcome to issue 8. Things are running smoothly here. Numbers are STILL on the rise, word of mouth is spreading... and we just got nominated for an Eisner (did I mention that last month?). Things are good.

Before we dive into the letters I want to give a shout out to Charlie and Cliff, you guys have gone above and beyond this issue. This book is looking fantastic. I absolutely couldn't be happier with how it's turned out. Keep up the good work!

Now that we've got that out of the way... let's dive into these letters.

Hey gang. I like your new book, it's the best zombie comic to come along in a while. It's the best kind of zombie story, one that shows a very human aspect at it's core. I'd put it up there with some of the other best zombie books; Deadworld ish's 1 to 16, plus the accompanying short stories that went with it. The Night of the Living Dead movie adaptation, (by Fantico I think, who, unfortunately, don't seem to exist anymore,) plus their Night of the Living Dead: London sequel. Dark Horse's Zombie World: Winter's Dregs, Tree of Death, and a couple others they did. Plus others I can't recall offhand now... Resident Evil comics were kind off cool, but lacked length, and good dialogue. There were some cool blood & guts, but if your dialogue sucks then you're screwed. In fact the dialogue in Resident Evil (games in particular) sucked ass until the novels and movie came out. Here are my fave zombie flix:

Dead Alive(I know it's ridiculous, but it's the bloodiest movie ever!)
Night of the living dead
Dawn of the Dead
Return of the Living Dead
Night of the Living Dead (remake)
Return of the Living Dead 3 (2 was a good story with good soundtrack/music, but stupid acting, whereas 3 had good acting, but shitty music. Go figure.)
Day of the Dead
Resident Evil (Although it's as much a bio-terror movie as a zombie movie.)
Dawn of the Dead (remake)
28 Days Later (even though the zombies aren't dead)
I can only imagine how cool Resident Evil: Apocalypse

is
going to be. You
guys are

doing great. I shall keep pace with your book.

Later, Misfit.
Rochester, NY

P.S. I also dig the Evil Dead trilogy, even though they're not exactly zombie flix. And, hopfully, it won't always be a trilogy. ;)

Zombie World: Winter Dregs was a great comic. I love Bob Fingerman's work. If any of you out there are over 18 you should check out Bob's "Minimum Wage" series. It was recently collected into a hardback titled "Beg the Question." It's an all around swell book that provides solid entertainment value page after page. I highly recommend it.

Hail,
When I saw the title The Walking Dead in the comic store, I jumped at it but when I saw it was in black and white I just put it back in the shelve but later I give it a try and a bought the third issue and I MUST APOLOGIZE for all I said about black and white artwork, It gives an more dramatic effect. Now I regret to had not buy the first and second issue...that's what I deserve maybe... But keep this good comic book and artwork like this, congrats again!

-Sputnik

Serves you right asshole! Didn't you hear? Black and white is the new color! On a side note, fellas... ladies... please sign your emails. If you do not... I will make up a name for you... like Sputnik here. Heh.

Greetings,
I have been reading this book since it came out and I was amazed at how impressive it looks. As a fan of zombie movies, I always love to see the reactions of the people in the movies and how they deal with such horrific situations. Movies like the Living Dead trilogy are to me the same as films like "The Possiedon Adventure," "The Towering Inferno" and "Earthquake." These movies show all have one terrific similarity: Drama. I

to say what a great job Mr. Moore has been doing in terms of art. The feel of the book reminds me of the original "Night of the Living Dead." This book is a constant reminder to cherish the things we still have and deal with whatever problems that may happen.

Thank you

Adam Langfelder

P.S.

Don't let this book get cancelled because I love it!!!!!!!

Thank GOD you told me Adam! This book was on the chopping block until I got this email. I mean... between Invincible, Brit, Captain America, and my Savage Dragon and SuperPatriot mini-series I was just getting a bit too busy for this book... but I'll stick it out, for you.

I picked up this book because my little brother told me not reading it was not a good idea. I just finished issue 6 and all I can say is wow. My ears are literally ringing, and I feel like I've just been shot. The true human emotion that you guys capture with this "zombie book" is amazing. I've never actually been able to hear a gunshot or any other sound effect by reading a comic book before, but when Carl shot Shane, it was one of the loudest things I've heard in my entire life. I know it's been said countless times before, but thanks for bringing us this book. It is the best thing I've read all year.

Nate Nease

Boulder, CO

Tell your little brother I said thanks, and that his check is in the mail.

Hey Kirkman!

Jesus! There's nothing bad to say. I recently finished obtaining all the current run of the walking dead series 1-6. And like any true college student, instead of writing my research paper, I didn't tonight to read all 6 of um. Amazing. Simply Amazing. Tony's Art, Your Writing,.. and it's good that it is black and white (makes the whole book more dramatic).

The art, man Tony is such a great artist. I love his stuff. Its so clean and detailed, and just so plain sometimes. I don't know how to explain it! It's amazing

The story. !!!!!. It is like watching a movie sometimes. A lot of your writing makes me think of just great cinematic moments. I think that's why people are just drawn to the 50 plus books you write J. And to it was not long ago when I saw that special mini-series (Superpatriot) that you and Cory did. Then I moved to Battle Pope, then Invincible, now Walking Dead. I hate you in fact. Why are you so good!

1. Thanks for not making the zombies run. That's one thing that's pissing me off with the new school of zombie movies. Thank

god you know what

would

also like

doing.

your

2. How's the new superpatriot coming along?

3. Since you write about a dozen books a month any way, how about this idea.... Marvel is going ape shit looking for people to replace their top talent because they're going to DC. Grant Morrison being one of them. So how about this... New X-men, Writer: Robert Kirkman, Artist: Dave Johnson

Hey then maybe you can be in the Wizard top ten writers. Hahah, I mean common, you should be #1Well until Image stops saying yes when you pitch a book, Make Mine Marv... err Kirkman!

Iggy Osorio

1. No shit... can you imagine how much this book would suck if I didn't know what I was doing?

2. It's coming along nicely. E.J. Su is doing a bang-up job. I think all the superhero fans that pick it up will enjoy it.

3. I've got no objections to that. Except for the Dave part... that guy's a lazy bastard!

Dear WDead Crew

I've written once before, but something new has come to my attention. I am a huge zombie fan, and your book is a wonderful addition to the zombie genre. But, this time I am going to skip the whole "zombies rule" stuff to say something totally different. You guys have really nailed it. Even without the zombies, this book is excellent. You have done a perfect mix of drama, suspense, horror, action, love and betrayal. I read a lot of comics, and I have to say, this truly is one of the best books on the market today. You grow to care and understand even the more minor characters in the book, and that is a hard act to pull off. I have been reading comics for over twenty years, and have seen few books that really flesh out a story like you guys do. I give you my word today, as long as this book is published, I will read it.

Nothing but praise
Arthur Marvin Jr.

P.S. Have you got a chance to check out "DeadWorld" yet?

I bought a TPB off ebay but I've yet to get around to reading it. I also can't figure out if it's the first story and I don't want to start in the middle! I flipped through it... it looks pretty cool.

Just wanted to drop a quick note to let you know I really enjoy your little zombie rag. The pacing is terrific, characterizations are intriguing and the art is just nifty.

I hope the book continues for quite awhile. You've got my support. Thanks for the great read!

Jeff

We'll

be
around for the long haul,
thanks to Adam's letter earlier. Seriously though...
with sales doing what they are, as long as the bot-
tom doesn't fall out of this horror craze we're living
through, we should be around a good long while. My
dream is to do at least 75 issues, but we'll see how we
do.

Robert and Tony:

You just put yourselves on the map with this one.

Incredible stuff.

Wow.

I loved it. I can't think of what else I could say. Mind
blown.

Sincerely,
Ryan Walsh

Can't argue with that. Thanks for the kind words
Ryan... though, as a I guy I remember from the Battle
Pope days I'm a little hurt that you didn't think we
were on the map before...

Walking Dead Crew,

I first spotted The Walking Dead in a Previews maga-
zine and the premise had me eager to try it out. I've
been on the train now for six issues and I don't intend
to get off any time soon. I usually pass up on Black
and Whites, but the Walking Dead has me taking a
second look. I'd love to see it in color sometime,
maybe volume 2?

I don't know what you have planned for these charac-
ters in the future, but I'd sure like to see what Arnold
Schwarzenegger looks like as a zombie. You wouldn't
have to do much for Maria, however.

Thanks,
Ashur Givargis
Elk Grove, CA

No color... EVER. No Schwarzenegger zombies.
Although, Maria Shriver has been in nearly every issue
thus far.

Hey guys,

Every issue of The Walking Dead I start reading I
always think that I know what's going on but by the
time I finish the issue I'm always stunned by what's
just happened. Issue 6 is a perfect example of this
those last three pages were so unexpected that I
couldn't take my eyes off the final page. After reread-
ing this issue I can see where everything in the past
couple of issues were leading up to this moment, this
confrontation but I never expected it to end this way.

Robert your pacing for the story has been spot on.
The way the events lead in from one sequence to
another is fantastic. Also the lettering and balloon

placement is done so well that it adds to the art in
heightening the story. The anger was jumping off of
the page when I was reading the book and the use of
"BLAM" behind Shane's head when he was shot really
showed the impact.

The story that's being told here goes way beyond what
I'd expect from a zombie comic

and that's
what I love about this book. The
characters seem so real we see the fear, hurt, and
anger in their eyes. This is one hell of an emotional
comic.

Congratulations in the bump up in sales, this book
deserves it.

Thanks for the great read,
George Gatewood

Thanks for all the compliments, George. Get your
brother to read it... and I'll mail you a check.

Dear sirs,

I must say that issue 6 was the best yet. It closed
the initial story arc perfectly, and made issue 5 seem
good to me. I have to admit, I thought you were slip-
ping with issue 5. It seemed very much as though you
were just "going through the motions", with typical
zombie action, typical interpersonal conflict, and typi-
cal post apocalyptic fireside chat. But issue 6 made
all of issue 5's events seem important, and though I'll
never LOVE issue 5, at least now I can like it.

Issues 1-4 were also outstanding, and I truly feel you
have done some of the best zombie storytelling.

I could try to explain more as to why I feel this way,
but I refuse.

What I refuse NOT to do is comment on your fre-
quent insistence that the title of your book "the walk-
ing dead" does not refer to the... (ahem) ZOMBIES
which occupy much of the thoughts and activities of
the characters there in.
(In Jesse Jackson voice) "This ridiculous. This is ludi-
crous. This is superfluous.

AND THISCANNOT STAND!"

I know you have the best intentions, but you are
being fool hardy. Take this hypothetical example as
an explanation of my point.

I have an idea for a new comic book. It's called "The
Killer Clowns of Washington". In the story, a bunch
of giant shoed, red afro wigged, face painted, tiny
car owning axe murders drive around Washington
trying to off war mongering politicians. Though
much of the story centers around the politicians
(most of whom are republicans), the tale is clearly
about the axe murdering Technicolor hobos who
threaten them and the affect they have on the
world. It's "Margret Thatcher's on the line, she says
that she can't help with the clown problem" and "
Is this fall out shelter clown proof?" and other such
banter in each and every issue.

My friend's, there could be no disputing the fact
that the clowns are the focal point of the story, and
the meaning of the title of the book. The story con-
tains killer clowns in Washington. The title is "the
killer clowns of Washington". No room for inter-
pretation there. Case closed. What you see is what
you get. Every issue, killer clowns are at the crux
of the tale. If there are no clowns in that issue, you
can sure as heck bet they'll be referred to. And the
whole thing takes place in Washington. So there
you have it.

Clowns of Washington.

The Killer

But then, in a wacky twist, I reveal in the letters column that the title of the book DOES NOT refer to the obviously killer clowns of Washington who are dressed as clowns and who kill people, but instead SOLELY REFERS to the war mongering politicians who play the victim to their homicidal yet comedic brutalizers. I say this because...

INFACT...

(wait for it)

... it's the war mongering politicians who are the real "KILLER CLOWNS OF WASHINGTON"!

Take that, reader of my comic book! You thought you knew what it was all about didn't you! But, noooooooo! You had it all wrong! Those killer clowns aren't THE killer clowns. It's those OTHER killer clowns are THE ACTUAL killer clowns!

Get it?

Hmmm, maybe I should state it more plainly.

It's fine to say that people robbed of their lives, their humanity, their sense of normalcy and security become soulless husks of their former selves, and therefore, could be described as "the walking dead". But it is not ok to say that people who can walk around but are really, truly not alive because they do not have a living body or capacity for brain function are NOT the walking dead.

To say that the walking dead are not the walking dead is just plain silly.

Those zombies in your comic book, they are the walking dead. They are walking, and they are dead. Hence, they are the walking dead. Now, those desperate and depressed living people in your comic book, they may be the METAPHORICAL walking dead, and you can say that the title of your comic refers to them all you want. But don't say your comic's title DOES NOT refer to the actual WALKING DEAD PEOPLE in your story, and instead refers ONLY to the TALKING ALIVE PEOPLE that are also in your story.

That gives me an idea. I'm going to start a comic book about a bunch of zombies who are dead and can't talk, and call it "the talking alive". There will also be a bunch of alive people who can talk in the story, but the title will most definitively not be in reference to them.

OK, I hope I've made my point.

Anyway, keep up the good work. I wouldn't have taken the time to write all that silly crap if your book weren't really affecting me.

And don't steal my idea.

Jonathan Holmes

PS. I haven't heard you sound off on the new DotD? You like?

Me

like.

Sure, they can run, but it's still a good movie, and I feel like it showed the interpersonal conflict in a apocalyptic lawless world just as well as the original did.

By the way, I heard that the title "Dawn of the Dead" is actually NOT in reference to the zombies in the story, and is in fact a reference to the dog in the film, whose name is Chips. Apparently, the message of the film is "If you have to hang out with an annoying red haired girl who calls you 'Chips' for a couple of days, you will feel like death has dawned upon you".

As you would expect, the movie was originally called "Dawn of the Dead Dog", but the test audiences were confused by the title, as they happily expected to see a 2 1/2 hour film detailing the adventures of a dead dog, and were disappointed by all the zombies and the not dead dog that they got instead.

For real. That's what I read on the Internet.

Sorry... I stopped reading your letter halfway through. Let me get this straight... you didn't like issue five? Man... I thought that was a good issue. Oh well, some people are just hard to please I suppose.

Dear Letter Hacks,

I want to congratulate you on an excellent series thus far.

Judging by your letters column, I seem to be the only person to have been anticipating this series BEFORE it was released, as I had read previews of The Walking Dead on various comics news sites. As a new convert to the Church of Zombie, any news of impending undead goodness is good news to me (we'll just pretend the House of the Dead movie never happened). I can honestly say that despite my anticipation, you've surpassed any expectations I had, and have crafted an excellent series.

I also seem to be one of the few who doesn't give a rolling fuck that the opening scene was reminiscent to that of 28 Days Later. As a "writer" (and I use the term in it's loosest possible sense, as one who is capable of stringing words together in a quasi-coherent manner), I've started

and abandoned several projects (including a zombie series, you bastards) because of similar ideas that sprout up around the same time. I applaud you for sticking to your guns and not buckling to change the scene. I also commend you for being able to carve out your little zombie niche before the inevitable onslaught of walking dead projects that loom just over the horizon (in comics AND movies).

As far as the explanation for the zombies, I'm not sure that's necessary at all. While writing a zombie project of my own, I personally found the time and energy needed to explain the rising of the undead to be a detractor from the events and pacing of the story. Where time and page constraints are needed,

going to lengths to explain something that may or may not have true impact on the story seems pointless, and allows less time for character development. (Nice of me to give you the go ahead to flake out of the explanation, wasn't it?)

To the art. When I first read (and reread, and reread) Battle Pope, Mr. Moore's art struck me as good and a bit cartoony, and he obviously possessed a metric-fuckload of potential. When I opened The Walking Dead and saw his art for the first time since BP, I was awestruck. This dude has some serious chops. As such, I was disappointed to hear that Tony will be leaving the book, although the preview art I've seen from Charlie Adlard looks to be as much of an improvement on HIS previous work as Tony's improvement from BP to TWD.

Anyway, here's hoping that you can keep your series shuffling through the hordes of inevitable hungry rip-offs you're sure to inspire!

Sincerely,
Mike Caswell
<http://www.northboundcomics.com>

PS - Have you read Brian Keene's novel "The Rising"? It's an interesting take on the genre, and will help alleviate any remorse you feel over the mind-theft from 28 Days Later (*cough!* brutally sadistic soldiers *cough!*).

Read a novel? Huh? Are you kidding? There's no... pictures. As far as the explanation for the zombies go, I think that aside from the zombies being in the book this is a fairly realistic story, and that's what makes it work. The people do real things, and it's all very down to Earth... almost normal. ANY explanation would be borderline science fiction... and it would disrupt that normalness. In my mind, the story has moved on. I'm more interested in what happens next than what happened before that caused it all.

On Adlard's art... yeah, I didn't think it was possible but this issue was actually BETTER than issue 7. I'm shocked. Charlie is really bringing his A game to this project. I think it's stunning.

You did it again. I don't know how you do it, but every time I think this title isn't going to get any better than it is already, you go ahead and prove me wrong.

Issue 6 was easily the most emotional issue to date whether it was Jim's decision of his final fate or Andrea's silence or Shane and Rick finally coming to blows none of it can be matched. However, as powerful as these incidents were these don't come close to "It's not the same as killing the dead ones, Daddy." Actually I totally forgot it was a "Zombie World" book. Now THAT is the true indication of how powerful the writing and art on this book is.

I constantly rave about this book, trying to push it and am making headway. So far you are the only book I have been moved to congratulate almost every

other issue. Keep it up. Make Mine Dead.

Craig Wood
Cape Town
South Africa

Glad you liked the issue Craig, we're really proud of how issue six turned out.

This is My first Letter ever written to A Comic Book, So I might as well Write to My Favorite Comic. Here are a few reasons Why "The Walking Dead" is one of the Best.

1:The Zombies are Zombies. They don't run, and Transformation takes Hours, Not Minutes.

2:The Approach on the Zombies sense of smell. (Cooking the deer was what drew them in the Camp in Issue#5, Ain't it?)

3:(You get this alot, But its true)BLACK & WHITE! The Look reminds me of The Original "Night of the Living Dead".

There are more, but you don't wanna hear all of them. Trust me. The first Issue I bought was #3. I WAS AMAZED! I immediately got a car ride back to my Local Hobby shop that my pal runs, and Ordered #1 and #2, the latter of those sold out, but I got 2nd printing now.

I just finished Issue #6, and I wish you guys would be Bi-weekly, But then I know rushing out comics would not be fun for you, and if it's no fun, Why do it? But you can damn well bet I'll be getting every Issue you put out. Its my dream. A ROMERO MOVIE THAT NEVER ENDS! Keep up the not good, not great, but AWE INSPIRING work!

-Jason

P.S. Ever heard of The Paper-&-Pencil RPG "All flesh must be Eaten"? Or the board Game "ZOMBIES!!!"?

I've heard of the game, but I've never seen or played it. I hear a lot of good things about it though. We'd love to take this book to bi-weekly but it's just not possible. Maybe someday though... heh.

Dear Robert,
I picked up your series on a recommendation from a friend and I'm glad I did! It has fast become the ONE title I actually look forward to reading each month! I found it interesting that you said the title refers to the survivors and NOT the zombies! Keep the twists coming!

I just finished reading TWD#6 and all I can say is WOW! You've killed off 3 characters in 2 issues! I didn't see that coming! I guess it's a sign of your writing skill that the issue had a lot of tension and unease in it and not a single zombie! I didn't even realize that fact until you mentioned it in the letters column!

Great job!

I've actually found my heart pounding faster while reading this title! That's amazing when you consider it's pretty hard to build terror & suspense in a silent medium like comics! The scene that really did this for me was from #4 when Rick & the boy had to enter the city looking for guns. I can't think of a more terrifying situation than that and then having to smear your body with zombie gunk to cover up their smell only made it worse! UGH!

I know a lot of people have mentioned DEADWORLD in the letter pages. I'm surprised you had never heard of it or read it before? It was a good series that unfortunately went away with the collapse of Caliber Comics. It put a new spin on the zombie genre with a talking, intelligent zombie leader (King Zombie) and the zombie plague was unleashed on earth due to dark magic. They weren't afraid to kill characters off in that series either which is always a plus and makes for a more realistic read.

Just wanted to send you these quick thoughts and wish you continued success. You guys deserve it! I'll be along for what I'm sure will be a LONG run.

Marc Cawiezel
Shit Hole Missouri

On second thought... that whole "The title refers to the survivors and not the zombies" thing sound pretentious as hell. So let's just forget I ever said it. All I really meant by it was that this book isn't about the zombies (as you should all know by now) and that there are going to be MANY issues that don't have one single zombie in them (like issue six). The title is "The Walking Dead" because I thought it sounded cool.

You know I never lend out my comic books. I take them home, read them and put them away for months at a time until I feel like I want to read them again. But then this book comes out and changes all that, I mean it has zombies, substance, emotion and did I mention zombies? So I start lending the issues to friends only to get them back by the time the next issue comes out finding the back cover has the number of finger prints you would find in a small country, damn glossy black. So I guess I'm saying this is a

damn good book and I'm going to have to make my friends start to purchase it themselves, they're cut off from mine! Keep up the good work.

Sean Delaney

Well, starting with last issue we did away with those pesky fingerprint attracting black back covers. I hope you like the new white ones. I was a bit wary at first but I think they've grown on me.

Hey there,

I'd first like to start by mentioning that the whole 28 days thing is pointless. When I first saw the trailer me and my dad both immediately said hey cool, a Day of the Triffids movie. I do suggest you pick that book up...its very good. And yet no one mentioned it, because it's a rather little known book, and I think quite hard to find here in America (personally someone bought it for me in England). Good movie though. Plus it makes perfect sense that he'd be in a hospital, otherwise what could have happened? "They left while I was sleeping" hahaha. Great idea to have one of the

characters get bitten but not die, I anticipate a very powerful scene deciding weather to kill him. Then again no one has been bitten before, so we don't know how long it takes. Could be anywhere from Dawn of the Dead (very quickly) to Resident Evil (takes a few hours). I'd also like to mention that issue 4 cost me like \$15, *damn comic book stores*. So I wish I'd known about the TPB earlier grrrr.

I shall continue to be an avid reader

t0m0

Sorry about that. From now on, keep in mind TPBs will be collecting the series in six issue chunks from here on out. If you miss an issue, wait for the TPB instead of paying \$15. Unless I'm selling it. Of course, the TPBs won't all be \$9.95 like the first one, that was just an introductory, drug-dealer marketing scheme.

And that does it for this issue, folks. See you back here next month for issue 9 when things start to get... interesting (that'll be nice for a change, huh?).

Robert Kirkman

**“Kirkman’s writing
transcends the typical ‘chased-by-zombies’
genre and is
easily one of the most dramatically
involving books of recent memory. add to
that incredible art work and
superlative production values
and ‘walking
dead’ has become my favorite
comic being published.”**

**--- Marc Andreyko,
“Manhunter”, “Torso”, “Casefiles: Sam & Twitch”**





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